

## ABSTRACT

A hierarchical interface component of a router transforms the flat feature presentation of traditional routers into a hierarchical feature presentation. The features are organized as functional components that include sub-components and attributes. Attributes store values relating to routing algorithms and components represent functionality relating to a routing algorithm and may contain additional components (sub-components) or attributes. The hierarchical interface allows a user to easily inspect, modify, and read the router attributes. Further, because the inter-dependencies of the attributes are clearly and visually displayed to the user, the user may more quickly understand the ramifications of changing a particular router attribute.

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